



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ANN ARBOR

JAMES W. BUTLER, III
INTERIM PRESIDENT

Broadband Authority Makes First Official Loan— Alma, Michigan Company to Expand Service

For Immediate Release

Contact: Brian Sydnor (734) 214-1387

LANSING: Today the Michigan Broadband Development Authority (MBDA) announced it had closed its first loan to improve broadband access in the state. The loan, to ISP Wireless Inc. (a fixed wireless broadband Internet service provider based in Alma, Michigan) is being used to expand service to the cities of Beaverton, Clare, Coleman, Gladwin, Hemlock, Ithaca and Rosebush. ISP Wireless currently provides service to customers in Alma, Mt. Pleasant, Breckenridge and Shepherd. The Broadband Authority's financing will now allow ISP to purchase additional tower antenna and customer premise equipment (modems and small antennas) for these new territories (MAP ATTACHED).

"The MBDA was charged by the legislature to deploy and enhance the availability of broadband service in Michigan, particularly in underserved rural and urban communities," said James Butler, Vice President of the Broadband Authority. "This is exactly the type of project that was envisioned when PA 49 of 2002 was adopted. We will continue to work with companies such as ISP Wireless and work diligently to ensure that broadband access and broadband utilization increases across the entire state."

ISP Wireless President Chris Carey noted how important it is for the State to help support companies like his. "We are ecstatic that we are the first company to execute a loan with the MBDA. The MBDA is a vital tool to help expand service and broadband use. It would be difficult for companies like ours to continue expanding service without them," noted Carey.

The MBDA was created to help the state attract more private sector investment in high-speed Internet infrastructure, and to increase demand for and utilization of broadband services. It does so by offering 1) low-cost loans to telecommunications companies willing to make such investments and 2) by offering organizations or "broadband users" low-cost financing for the acquisition of hardware/software applications that will improve or increase their use of broadband service. More information about the Michigan Broadband Development Authority and its programs can be found at www.BroadbandAuthority.org

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ISP Wireless Service Areas

